

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

Foreign Mission Board presents challenge of "Last Frontier"

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — His arms outstretched, Foreign Mission Board (FMB) President Jerry Rankin asked the hushed assembly: "Who will go? Whose heart is broken over the needs of a lost world, a broken heart that will compel a response to God's call?"

As the congregation stood and sang "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go," people left their seats and filtered down the aisles of the cavernous Louisiana Superdome the evening of June 12. They came by singly and in pairs, couples with their arms around each other, a man with his arm over a boy's shoulder. They stood and talked and prayed with missionaries on the floor of the arena. Others remained in their seats and quietly filled out commitment cards pulled from their programs.

The commitment service was part of the annual FMB report to the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention, which met June 11-13 in New Orleans.

When the decisions were tabulated, more than 1,500 commitments had been registered: 476 for some type of overseas missions service, four for home missions, and 959 pledging to support missions by praying, giving, or encouraging others.

One person made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ; 94 renewed their commitments to their Lord.

"We had 105 people express interest in career service overseas," said Jim Riddell, associate director of the FMB personnel selection department. "That's the largest number of career commitments at an appointment service in years."

Missions opportunities abound for one "addicted to missions"

By Sarah Peugh

Matthew quotes the greatest Teacher, saying "missions" means "Go and tell." Webster defines "addiction" as a "compulsive need for and use."

God's amazing grace can addict his servants to this compulsive need to go and tell the gospel. What is really amazing is there is no age limit. In the golden years of three score, I became addicted to missions. As one of 42 members of the National Federation of Press Women from the United States, I toured Russia in 1989 at the beginning of President Mikhail Gorbachev's *perestroika* and *glasnost* — before Communism fell. The despair in the eyes of the Russian adults and children forced upon my heart.

The few of us in this "liberal press" group who had Bibles had to give them away secretly. Our tour guide Tanya accepted one graciously and with expressive gratitude, stating she had always wanted one. At that time, they sold for \$200 on the black market, she told us.

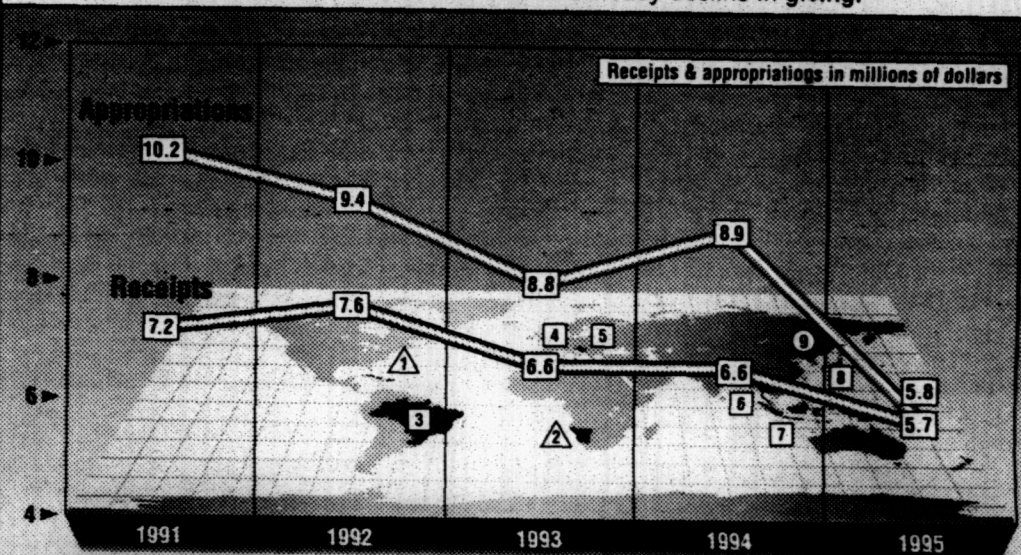
My heart's urges for missions led me to Russia twice more, and once to Indonesia with the Foreign Mission Board. Now, 1996 has offered a new horizon of missions in Venezuela.

Through its partnership with Mississippi Baptists, the Venezuela Baptist Convention offers mission opportunities among 32 million people who live in a country only slightly larger than the area of Texas and Oklahoma. It is a "Macedonia" with 245 missionaries. Luis Magin Alvarez, minister and editor of *Luminar Bautista*, the official newspaper of Venezuela Baptists, states: "If Christians would unite and be willing to be used of the Lord, they would be a blessing to the world."

Alvarez was converted through an "addicted to missions" missionary. Peugh is a journalist and member of First Church, Aberdeen.

Healing hurts, opening doors

Graph: Falling receipts have forced missionaries to cut back ministries
Human needs ministries open doors for the gospel, and opportunities are on the rise, but ministries have been scaled back because of a steady decline in giving.



Source: Foreign Mission Board, SBC

Map reflects selected major projects in — ▲ 1995

■ 1995 & 1996

● 1996

1. Caribbean 2. Namibia 3. Brazil 4. Croatia 5. Bosnia 6. Thailand 7. Indonesia 8. Philippines 9. North Korea

(BP) GRAPHIC By Alan M. Perrow

The board appointed 54 people to career positions in about 25 countries during an emotional service that mixed pageantry, music, video, drama and testimony. A parade of international flags — a tradition of the appointment services — included a somber procession of gray banners representing 2,161 ethnic people groups — 1.7 billion people — that have never heard the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Rwanda missionary Marlene Lee recalled the April 1994 genocide that left 500,000 Rwandan Tutsis "chopped up and left to die and rot like garbage."

Southern Baptist prayers sustained her and her husband, Stan, as they were forced to evacuate and then worked among aban-

doned children in a refugee camp in Goma, Zaire, Lee said. They even survived two attempts on their lives, she said, "because you were praying."

The appointment service capped an evening program that included presentations by the Home Mission Board and the Baptist World Alliance. Zambian Acapella, a singing ensemble of young African men won to Christ by Southern Baptist missionaries, performed immediately before the service.

In his formal convention report, Rankin said the FMB has appointed more than 12,000 missionaries in its 151-year history. Half of those have taken the field since 1976. One-third of that number remain in active service today.

Targeting youths

Surveys show fourth- and fifth-graders are more familiar with the trendy Budweiser beer frogs than with Kellogg cereal's Tony the Tiger, according to the Center on Alcohol Advertising (CAA). In the August issue of *SBC Life*, Entertainment Today, Inc., president Bob DeMoss quotes CAA researcher Laurie Leiber: "After a single year of advertising, the Budweiser frogs have assumed a friendly place in our children's psyches between Bugs Bunny and Smokey Bear." The Center for Science in the Public Interest (CPSI) and Children of Alcoholics Foundation (COAF) have called for legal action to stop "deceptive advertising aimed at the young." Migs Woodside, COAF chairman, said, "(S)ons and daughters of alcoholics, one out of every eight teenagers in the country, are already three to four times more likely to become alcoholics themselves.... Beer commercials heighten this already-high vulnerability." Of a Budweiser spokesman's assertion that their commercials don't lead children to drink, DeMoss said: "... He's saying... the Bud ads do work on adults, but have no impact on kids...!"

"TLW" hits Brazil

While secular media in sensual Brazil ridicule "True Love Waits," the Southern Baptist campaign to promote sexual purity among young people is proving to be a message Brazil's youths want to hear. In the South American country where promiscuity has led to a high incidence of AIDS, Baptist youths in Campinas recently broke a long-standing record for blood bank donations — and 100% of their blood was uncoated. "We've never seen anything like this before," said a stunned blood bank worker. Tom Hearon, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board youth worker in Rio de Janeiro, said young people are flocking to the abstinence program because they yearn for a sense of morality even though "the extremely sensual culture militates against it so violently. Without 'True Love Waits,' I don't feel Brazilian young people really have an option, because no one tells them their body is their own." Hearon said he hopes one day Brazil may be known not for sensuality but as the South American country where a generation of youth dared to be different.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Holly Springs native Bob Dent, a former Southern Baptist missionary journeyman who taught Bible classes in the bush country of Liberia, is named camp manager for the Luzan Baptist Assembly in Cabcan Bataan, Philippines.

20 years ago

William G. Tanner, current president of Oklahoma Baptist University and former pastor of First Church, Gulfport, is elected executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, headquartered in Atlanta.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptists are urged to join the effort to rebuild First Baptist Church of Fukuoka, Japan, destroyed during World War II. "If we fail to enter the open doors now, it will be far more difficult for us in the future," states a *Baptist Record* editorial.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WILLIAM H. PERKINS JR.



Where have the good kids gone?

We are daily bombarded by news media reports of wayward youths committing the most heinous crimes and indulging in the most hedonistic activities.

The national statistics stagger us. The local stories affect us on an even deeper level.

Three teens — a 14-year-old among them — were arrested last week and charged with capital murder in the brutal robbery/slayings of three Native American Choctaws in Neshoba County.

Authorities suspect gang activity may be involved in the quadruple murders at Tardy Furniture Store in Winona a couple of weeks ago.

On and on it goes in a never-ending stream of bad news concerning young people. Is there any hope for this generation?

Where have the good kids gone?

At least 532 of them in Mississippi and more than 9,000 nationwide participated this summer in the World Changers program.

They gave away a part of their summer fun time to help the less fortunate in Vicksburg and Natchez, paying their own way to work for free under the scorching Mississippi sun on behalf of the needy.

They climbed under houses to replace rotten porches. They climbed on top of houses to replace worn shingles. They nailed new posts and siding where termites threatened to ruin the structure.

They didn't do it for school course credit. They didn't do it to be nominated for some award. They didn't do it to attract television cameras.

They did it because they love Jesus. They did it because Jesus told them to do it.

They did it because it was an opportunity to be a witness for Christ in run-down, inner-city neighborhoods whose residents need to see the life-changing nature of the gospel at work in people.

A crew of Natchez World Changers was assigned a home, and the elderly resident was delighted to see them. He had applied many times for assistance to make his house more livable.

Some time later that day they discovered they had been given the wrong address; they were actually assigned to another house. No time or money could be expended on the first house.

Rather than disappoint the old

man who so much needed their help, those young people took up a collection of their own spending money, bought the building supplies themselves, and worked on his house during their break times from the second house.

On the evening of July 27 and the morning of July 28, thousands and thousands of Christian young people gathered for the annual youth services in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

They sang praises to their Lord and listened intently as they were called to a closer relationship with the Savior.

Many of them made professions of faith or rededicated themselves to a Christian lifestyle. Some of them lead their friends to Christ.

Is there any hope for this generation? Yes, without a doubt.

Where have the good kids gone? They're out there with a heart for Jesus, in greater numbers than we give them credit.

Remember to pray for these precious young people as they earnestly seek to reflect Christ and lead their generation to salvation.

'The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace'

Galatians 5:22



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace

August 1, 1996

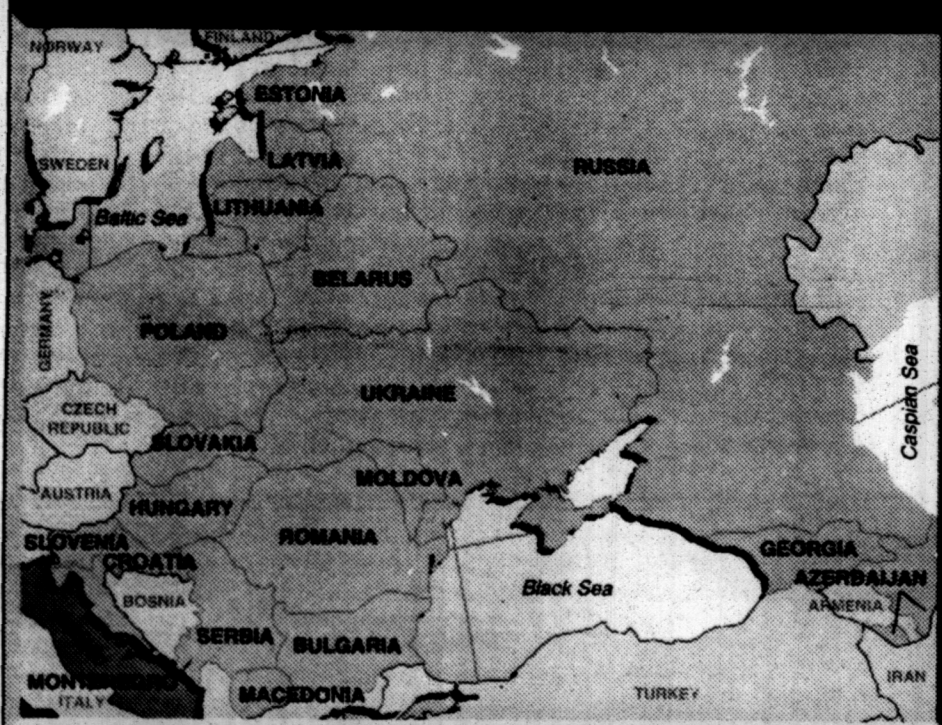
Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Guest Opinion...

Peace impossible without surrender to Christ's sovereignty

By Tom Strobe

Return to communism?



The Eastern European nations shown in bold type are now governed by former communists. Some are true reformers; others are "former" in name only. Voters fed up with the chaotic transition to market economics have returned a number of them to power.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace" (Gal. 5:22).

There is no peace without surrender.

Such a statement naturally prompts a question: Who wants a peace which is the result of surrender?

In the geopolitical realm, no one. In the spiritual realm, every Christian should.

In Galatians, the apostle Paul wrote to a body of believers who apparently were plagued not only by the dangers of slipping into legalism or license but by dissension which was threatening the existence of the church.

The factions disagreed so viciously Paul wrote words which, according to commentators, normally were used to depict the fighting of wild animals: "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another" (Gal. 5:15).

What did Paul recommend as a solution? Try harder? Call in a mediator? Compromise the truth? Endure?

No, he told them to surrender — surrender to the Lord Jesus by living under the control of the Holy Spirit. If they would live under the Spirit's control, they would not fulfill the desires of the sinful nature (Gal. 5:16).

The "acts of the sinful nature" include not only immorality and occultic practices, Paul wrote, but traits conflicting with peace — "hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions" (Gal. 5:19-20, NIV).

As one commentator has said, while the "flesh," or sinful nature, produces works or acts, the Holy Spirit produces fruit — the fruit of love, joy and, yes, peace.

As in the natural realm, this fruit is the by-product of being consistently connected to a healthy vine.

No person can manifest the fruit of the Spirit unless he or she first belongs to Jesus Christ (Gal. 5:24).

Then, he or she must constantly abide in him by living under the direction of the Spirit (Gal. 5:25).

Then, and only then, will the Spirit produce lasting fruit-and real peace — in a person's life.

The person whose life manifests this kind of fruit is capable of being at peace with others.

He or she is able to intercede for others who need this peace. He or she is empowered and equipped to share the Prince of Peace with others.

If you have not done so, surrender now and constantly hereafter — and receive not only a peace you can live with but become an instrument of peace in your family, your church, your workplace, your neighborhood, your community and your world.

Strobe is director of media and news information for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, Washington, D.C.

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Mississippians swarm 1996 Olympics with gospel message

By William H. Perkins Jr.

More than 800 Mississippi Baptist volunteers will be spreading the good news at a variety of major venues during the 1996 Olympic Games, report local leaders of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's Atlanta International Ministries (AIM) Olympic evangelism effort.

Jan Cossitt, statewide AFM organizer and consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), said the Mississippians are armed with more than 23,000 hospitality bags packed by Baptist church groups across the state.

The bags contain a Home Mission Board Olympic pamphlet with a gospel message, other evangelistic literature, and helpful personal items such as lip balm and snack food.

"So many people have expressed the thought that since

they can't go to the Olympics, the hospitality bags have given them a way to participate in the evangelism effort," Cossitt said.

Marjorie Ros, secretary at Calvary Church, Pascagoula, said the church had a "wonderful response" to the Olympic bag campaign.

"We involved the entire congregation. The children enjoyed bringing in the things needed and the senior adults seemed to like to donate cash.

"Our Mission Friends helped stuff the bags alongside our adults. When we had completed our bags and mailed them, we were left with \$99.24 which had been designated for the Olympic bags," Ros said.

The church delivered to WMU the completed bags and extra money, with instructions to utilize the cash as needed for the

AIM Olympic effort, she added.

Mary Loper, WMU director at Bethlehem Church, Laurel, was appreciative of the opportunity to participate in Olympic missions.

"Our ladies had fun filling the bags. We... filled 100 bags,"

Loper reported.

Mississippi Baptists are working at the following Olympic venues during the games:

- Downtown Atlanta, as nurses in medical assistance locations.

- Athens, Ga., site of competition in rhythmic gymnastics, volleyball, and soccer.

- Columbus, Ga., site of softball competition.

- Benton, Tenn., site of kayaking and other water sports.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, August 1, 1996

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Dual services for Youth Night yield over 11,500 attendance

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Initial feedback from the first twin-service Mississippi Baptist Youth Night on July 26-27 has been uniformly positive, according to the chairman of the planning committee that conceived the new format.

Matt Buckles, consultant for church administration in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's (MBCB) Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, said the Friday night/Saturday morning format at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson was a hit with the estimated 11,500 people who attended both services.

"The groups who came on Saturday morning really thought it was a good thing, because they said it allowed them to make a day trip without the expense and logistics of an overnight stay in Jackson," he reported.

Both services sported an identical agenda. Friday night was the most popular service, with an estimated 8,000 people in attendance. Approximately 3,500 people attended the Saturday morning service.

"Obviously, not all the people who came to the two services would fit in the coliseum for one service. We are well-pleased with the new format, and we will encourage even more churches to take advantage of the Saturday morning service in 1997," Buckles said.

Youth Night was returned to the coliseum this year after a violent thunderstorm washed out the 1995 edition at open-air Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson.

The annual event traditionally has been held at the coliseum, but attendance outgrew the 9,000-seat facility and the decision was made several years ago to move to the stadium.

More than 20,000 people flocked to the stadium for Youth Night 1994, but thousands of youths and their leaders were forced to huddle underneath the stadium stands in 1995 as a dan-

gerous, lightning-laden storm hovered over Jackson and forced cancellation.

That incident prompted planners to return to the coliseum and initiate the twin-service format, which Buckles said resulted in a "tremendous" offering of nearly \$8,900.

However, Youth Night 1996 had a couple of unsettling flashbacks to 1995, Buckles noted.

The roof of the coliseum is being renovated, and a downpour Friday night made its way through the half-completed roof and onto the stage, he said.

If that wasn't enough, the air conditioning system in the coliseum malfunctioned before the Saturday morning service, Buckles said, and an electrical problem at the adjacent fairgrounds complex plunged the coliseum into darkness.

"The show went on. After being rained out in '95, nothing

was a problem," Buckles said.

Members of the 1996 Youth Night committee included:

- Steve Wilson, pastor of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon.

- Jim Lott, minister of music at First Church, Pearl.

- Gary Maze, pastor of Horizon Church, Jackson.

- David Bryant, minister of youth at First Church, Yazoo City.

- Gary Phillips, minister of youth at First Church, Quitman.

- Rick Patrick, minister of music and youth at Shady Grove Church, Lucedale.

- Larry Salter, adult Sunday School consultant in the MBCB Sunday School Department.

- Susan Clark, youth music consultant in the MBCB Church Music Department.

Youth Night 1997 is slated for 7 p.m. on Friday, July 25, and 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 26, at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.



Sheree Tynes (left), member of First Church, Jackson, checks out Olympic hospitality bags July 25 with Sidney Pitts (center) and wife Margaret, members of First Church, Terry, at the Athens, Ga. venue for Olympic competition in rhythmic gymnastics. Tynes and the Pitts are among hundreds of Mississippi Baptist volunteers spreading the gospel at the centennial observance of the modern Olympic Games. The Pitts also serve as Mississippi coordinators for the Volunteers in Missions program. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

SBC Historian May dies in Nashville

NASHVILLE (BP) — Lynn E. May Jr., retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission and former Mississippi pastor, died July 24 from complications due to Parkinson's disease and congestive heart failure.

The funeral was scheduled for Friday, July 26, at Crieveview Church, with burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, Nashville.

May, 66, served the commission for almost 40 years, 23 of which he was executive director.

At the time of May's retirement in 1995, the commission staff had grown to 10 full-time and two part-time staff members — the largest staff the agency had ever had — with a Cooperative Program allocation of \$491,900.

Over the years, May held down all staff salaries and benefits, including his own, so that more funds would be available for meeting the agency's responsibilities to Southern Baptists.

May was a graduate of Louisiana College, New Orleans Seminary, and Vanderbilt University. He served as pastor in Mississippi at Spring Hill Church, Hazlehurst, from 1952-56.

He is survived by his wife, the former Alta Virginia Green, and two daughters, Deborah Virginia and Linda Diane (Mrs. Donald Skelton).



Kindred Heart, a contemporary Christian music group from Horizon Church, Jackson, performs at the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night July 26-27 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. A new twin-services format, designed to alleviate crowd overflow problems encountered in previous years, was well-received, according to event organizers. For additional photos, please turn to page 5. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Curriculum writers meet

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) hosted 79 individuals from across the Southern Baptist Convention during its 1996 Writers Conference. The annual event, held May 1-4 at WMU's national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., provided training for WMU's curriculum writers for 1997-98. Mississippi writers include (from left); seated, Elizabeth McGraw, Woodville; Barbara Wilkinson, Brandon; standing, Edna Ellison, Jackson; Tammie Worsham, Winona; and Jane Allison, Hattiesburg. (WMU photo by Dan Bryan)

U.S. House of Representatives okays Defense of Marriage Act

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) — The House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly July 12 to approve legislation designed to enable states to refuse recognition of homosexual marriages.

The Defense of Marriage Act, H.R. 3396, cleared the House by a 342-67 margin which did not reflect the fervent debate on the floor.

The legislation has been on a fast track since it was introduced in both the House and Senate in early May in response to an expected Hawaii court ruling which threatens to legalize homosexual marriage in a sweeping way. In a case scheduled to go to trial later this summer, it is expected a Hawaii court will declare homosexual marriage unconstitutional.

If such a union made in Hawaii is legal, it likely would be considered legal in all other states under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, unless a state is able to show it has a compelling policy opposing such unions. Eleven states have enacted legislation banning homosexual marriages.

The bill says no state shall be required to recognize a homosexual marriage from another state. It also amends federal law to define marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife" and to define a spouse as "a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife."

Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission (CLC) consultant Ben Mitchell said, "The lopsidedness of the vote shows two things: First, that the American people are not willing to redefine the institution of marriage on the whim of a radical

segment of our society; second, that Americans are tired of having the homosexual agenda shoved in their faces.

"The tactics of the homosexual lobby are as old as humanity. The way we sinners often deal with sin is to redefine it. We try to make it palatable and rationalize it away. Thankfully, the House has shown that it is not willing to do so," said Mitchell, the CLC's consultant on biomedical and life issues.

While opponents of the legislation charged it is politically motivated and mean-spirited toward homosexuals, supporters said it is a timely response to an attempt to legalize same-sex marriage through the decision of one state. Defenders of the bill also said it reflects the traditional view of marriage and does not prevent a state from granting legal status to homosexual marriages performed in other states. The bill only says states are not required to recognize such marriage by the full faith and credit clause, they said.

"This is far from a trivial political issue," said Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., in floor debate. "Families are not merely constructs of outdated convention, and traditional marriage laws were not based on animosity toward homosexuals."

"Our law should not treat homosexual relationships as the moral equivalent of the heterosexual relationships on which the family is based," Canady said.

Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., one of three openly homosexual members of the House, called the homosexual rights movement the "final chapter in the history of the

Descriptions of Disney World "Gay Day" behavior recalled

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — After 15 visits to Walt Disney World, Kim Jones won't be returning. The Sarasota, Fla., woman plans to boycott the Magic Kingdom after her experience at this year's "Gay and Lesbian Day" June 1.

Not only did many lesbians make suggestive remarks to her and her mature-looking, 10-year-old niece, homosexual men were whistling at her fiancé and yelling crude remarks at him, said Jones, who attends Bay Haven Church in Sarasota.

"It's disgraceful," she said.

Jones said the most embarrassing incident was taking one of her two daughters into a rest room and seeing two men dressed in skirts entering the stalls. It was obvious they were males because of their hairy legs, she said, and two more were coming in as she and her daughter exited the rest room.

Outside, many other men were wearing skirts, skin-tight tights, or muscle shirts with long fingernails and long hair, while the majority

of the "Gay Day" participants wore red T-shirts — the "uniform" for homosexuals, Jones said.

She also was offended by obvious cocaine snorting by homosexuals in front of and behind them as they waited in ride lines, Jones said. After several hours they had seen enough.

"We didn't complain, we just left," she said.

Jones isn't alone in her disgust. Ray Henry, pastor of Belvedere Church in West Palm Beach, said a couple from his church meets out-of-state relatives for a three-day family reunion at Disney World yearly, but they left early this year because of "Gay Day."

This happened before the family was even aware that Southern Baptists were going to consider a boycott, he said, referring to a resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in June threatening a boycott if the Walt Disney Company continues in an anti-family direction.

"Once people stumble upon these things, you're going to have an automatic boycott," Henry said. "They're not going to let their kids stand in line with gays flaunting their homosexuality. They're going to leave without any SBC resolution."

Henry said others' distasteful experiences likewise have been the subject of much discussion and have prompted a dilemma at Belvedere Church. The question is whether to support the upcoming "Night of Joy" Christian music festival, he said, or boycott it and hurt the artists.

"What (Disney) is doing now is offending people," Henry said. "They're having these days and people are leaving. They can jump on Southern Baptists, but we may be helping them out — they may need to adjust what they're doing."

The outrage extended beyond Florida's borders, too. Four weeks after "Gay Day," a Pennsylvania woman wrote to Disney officials to complain, sending a copy of her letter to the SBC Executive Committee.

Joyce McCoury of Spring Grove, Pa., said she and her husband Richard had long awaited a visit to Disney World and were

upset there were no signs warning them of "Gay Day." She said she felt her civil rights were violated by having to see some of the things they did and not having a choice to return another day.

"The displays of affection and some of the things we witnessed were appalling to us," McCoury wrote. "There were other people who had children and some of the comments we heard were very upsetting. People were very disgusted that their children had to be subjected to such behavior."

Not all visitors were upset by "Gay Day," however. Houston Chronicle reporter Melissa Fletcher Stoeltje, whose husband is an Episcopalian youth minister, said the homosexuals she observed didn't behave like perverts or monsters.

"They behaved pretty much like human beings," Stoeltje wrote in the Chronicle June 14. "If you can call spending hundreds of dollars to walk around a hot theme park all day normal."

While the occasional man in Mickey Mouse ears or a Fairy Princess hat didn't disturb her 8-year-old son, Stoeltje wrote, adults were a different matter.

"You could tell from the grim expressions on the faces of some couples pushing strollers and towing kids that they were none too thrilled to have Gay Day plopped, without warning, in the midst of their costly vacations. You could see that the straight world clearly didn't like being outnumbered for once."

Stoeltje acknowledged, "It didn't help that the back of the official Gay and Lesbian Day T-shirt bore the motto, 'A Day of Magic/A Night of Pleasure' — a rather randy sentiment for people out to prove they're not 'perverts.'"

Stoeltje concluded her column, "... Gay Day is a great idea — if it helps us view each other as what we truly are, fellow ticketholders in the big theme park of life."

However, a number of Orlando residents don't share Stoeltje's enthusiasm for "Gay Day," which may be expanded next year. It's being publicized on the copyrighted "Gay Day" home page on the Internet for June 5-9, 1997.

Georgia Baptists offered new witness journal

ATLANTA (BP) — An additional avenue of media witness has been launched by The Christian Index, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

The first issue of The E Street Journal is making its debut in conjunction with the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

The E Street Journal, to be published quarterly in a magazine format, will have a different thrust than The Christian Index, which is a weekly newspaper, managing editor Johnny Pierce said.

The Christian Index — in its 175th year — will continue to provide news and features of interest to Georgia Baptists. The E Street Journal, meanwhile, according to its mission statement, "is an eclectic, faith-affirming feature magazine which utilizes Christian writers and artists to educate, entertain, and enrich a diverse readership and provide a positive image of the Christian faith and lifestyle."

The E Street Journal will reflect elements from various popular magazines, like Southern Living's travel features and Guideposts' personality profiles, all with a family friendly approach, Pierce said.

The E Street Journal will seek to appeal "to people who are not necessarily Baptists or even Christians," Pierce said, and it can be a witness tool in a range of everyday settings, such as local businesses, hotel lobbies, doctor's-office waiting rooms, and auto repair shops. Pierce also intends for the journal to make its way to local newsstands.

The E Street Journal will seek to offer churches "a quality outreach piece," Pierce noted.

The journal is named after E Street in Washington, where the mother newspaper was founded by Luther Rice 175 years ago as The Columbian Star. It was renamed The Christian Index and moved to Georgia in 1833.

Federal gambling study gets \$5 mil OK from U.S. House

WASHINGTON (BP) — A bill establishing a panel to study the effects of gambling on American society is just a presidential signature away from becoming law — only a few months after appearing it might die in Congress.

The House of Representatives approved by voice vote without opposition the National Gambling Impact Study Commission Act. The House's July 22 action followed by only five days the Senate's approval of the same legislation.

The House had passed a slightly different version in March but chose to okay the Senate's version rather than allow the different versions to go to potentially drawn-out

negotiations in a House-Senate conference committee.

President Clinton has expressed support for the legislation.

The bill provides for a nine-member commission to study the social and economic effects of gambling on government, communities, families, businesses, and individuals.

The commission would be appointed within 60 days after the enactment of the legislation and would make its report no more than two years after its first meeting.

The panel would have three members appointed by the president, three by the Senate majority leader, and three by the speaker of the House. The cost of the commis-

sion would be about \$5 million, according to a Congressional Budget Office study.

The House action "is a victory for communities and families across America," said Rep. Frank Wolf, R.-Va., chief House sponsor. The commission "will provide governors and mayors, citizens, and neighbors with objective information about the effects of gambling so that they are better prepared when making their decisions about the industry."

The last national study of gambling came in 1976, when only Nevada and New Jersey had legalized gambling, Wolf said in a prepared statement. But now only a few states have no form of legal gambling.

The original House version of the legislation granted the commission power to subpoena individuals as well as documents. The final version approved by both chambers allows subpoena power only for documents, unless a person is needed to provide an explanation, and it includes disclosure restrictions to protect privacy which the original House version did not.

After the House passed its version in March, the legislation hit a snag in the Senate. Sen. Richard Bryan, D.-Nev., put a hold on the bill, a tactic a senator can use to block action.

A Senate committee nearly seriously weakened the commission's power before withdrawing a revised version just prior to a planned vote. In addition, while speaking at an April fund-raiser at a Las Vegas casino, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R.-Ga., said the panel's subpoena power should be removed.

The dynamic changed this summer, however. Sen. Trent Lott, R.-Miss., replaced Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole as majority leader and chose to support the legislation.

Colonial Hts. plans special summer event

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, has set aside Monday nights in August for its "Summer Spectacular." Each Monday evening at 7 p.m., the church will host a guest to lead in worship services.

On Aug. 5, Bobby Welch, pastor of First Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., will be the guest speaker. Evangelist Kelly Green will speak Aug. 12.

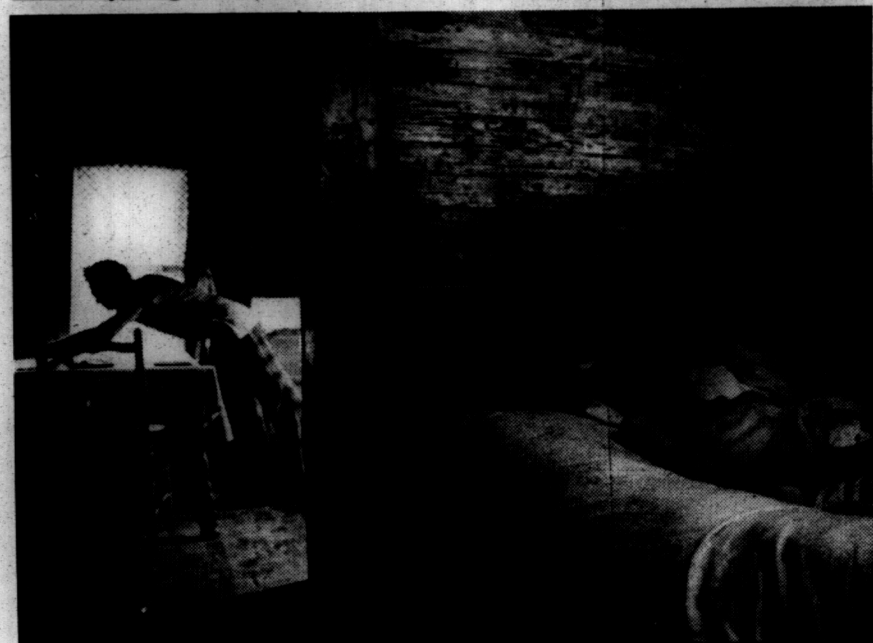
Guest singer for the series is Charles Billingsley, who will also perform in concert on Aug. 19.

Joe Ratliff, pastor of Brentwood Church in Houston, Texas, will be the speaker for the Aug. 26 service.

Admission to the "Summer Spectacular" events is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mark Bricker at (601) 956-5000.

Thursday, August 1, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



INSIGHT — The striking photo story Don Rutledge and writer Phyllis Thompson did for Home Mission Board publications about the Bailey King family in Mississippi moved many Southern Baptists to a deeper understanding of the causes and effects of poverty and hunger. King — in bed while his wife Luvenia sets the table for breakfast — formed a real bond with photojournalist Rutledge, now 65. King's reflections on life as an uneducated sharecropper trying to feed 13 children touched and moved Rutledge, who filled seven notebooks with King's observations. "My words won't never be heard because I'm a poor man," King told the photographer. But his words and Rutledge's pictures spoke to thousands. Rutledge retires Aug. 1 after 30 years of Southern Baptist service, the last 16 with the Foreign Mission Board. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

RU 486 nears FDA approval; patients face tough decisions

WASHINGTON (BP) — As the RU 486 abortion technique nears final approval for use in this country, Southern Baptists and others may face some decisions about their medical care.

"It is time for patients to ask their doctors if they will use RU 486," said Ben Mitchell, consultant on biomedical and life issues for the Christian Life Commission. "If they say 'yes,' then it is time for us to make some choices of our own. We ought to change physicians. If a physician will chemically target unborn babies for death, who knows what else they will do? They are not the kind of doctor you want."

The Population Council, which holds the United States patent to a drug developed by a French company, recently cleared a major hurdle to approval by the Food and Drug Administration. After a day-long hearing, an FDA advisory committee endorsed RU 486 in a 6-0 vote, with two abstentions.

There appears little doubt the FDA will give final approval, possibly by year's end. The agency rarely overturns the recommendations of its advisory committees.

Pro-lifers and pro-choicers seem to agree RU 486 may increase markedly the number of abortions in the country beyond the current 1.5 million a year and could thwart anti-abortion demonstrations targeting clinics and doctors.

Not only will RU 486 kill unborn children, but pro-lifers fear it will endanger women's health.

"We are talking about a molotov cocktail abortion, not an evening

sherry," said Helen Donovan, a northern Virginia lawyer who represents women injured by surgical abortion.

RU 486, also known as mifepristone, is used with a prostaglandin, misoprostol, to induce abortion in women in the early weeks of pregnancy. RU 486 causes the lining of the uterus to release the baby, who usually suffocates or starves to death. Misoprostol causes the uterus to contract, expelling the child's body.

The procedure requires at least three visits to a clinic. On the first visit, the woman takes three tablets of RU 486, then returns two days later for two tablets of misoprostol. After a four-hour stay at the clinic on this second visit, about 70% of women have an abortion, according to the council. The remainder of women will abort after they leave the clinic. Two weeks after the first visit, the woman returns to make sure the abortion is complete. If it is incomplete, a surgical abortion is done.

Correction

A cutline published in the July 25 issue of *The Baptist Record* ("Names in the News," page 9) incorrectly identified the subjects of the photo. It should have read: "Kevin Clifton Jr. (left) was ordained to the gospel ministry at Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, on April 14.... Craig Conner (right) is pastor of Michael Memorial Church."



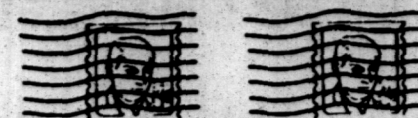
Headlining Youth Night '96

Pop Christian recording artist Clay Crosse (above) of Nashville performs one of his hits at 1996 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night July 26-27 at Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. Barry St. Clair (below) of Reach Out Ministries in Atlanta was the featured speaker for Youth Night. Organizers said that the return to the coliseum after a number of years at Mississippi Memorial Stadium across town was a success. For a report on Youth Night '96, please turn to page 3. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)





Letters to the editor



What has happened?

Editor:

I have fond memories of going to Baptist church services with my parents, some 50 years ago. The minute we entered the church, mum was the word, worship had started. The congregation singing one or two hymns usually began the service, then one or two quiet worshipful hymns by the choir or soloist, probably using up less than 15 minutes of those wonderful worship services. The preacher, humble, quiet, reverent, trying to be as much like Jesus as a human could be, conducted the balance of the service with God's help and presence.

It grieves me to ask fellow Christians: What has happened to a large number of our traditional Baptist churches?

Concerned about the direction that our Baptist churches may be going, I, along with others concerned, have visited several Baptist churches before drawing any conclusions.

After many hours of prayer, I feel led and compelled to write this letter.

A number of the choirs and members of the choir where we visited seemed to spend most of the morning worship hour performing, singing, and swinging to taped country gospel; very loud, then loud applauding by some of the congregation, leaving very little time for a inspired message by the pastor.

I read, and am told, that churches down through the ages have drifted away from worshipping the way God intended, and that this has always been one of the biggest problems that Jesus and his disciples, Paul and his followers, the prophets, and other godly leaders had to correct or contend with.

Please pray with us about this, if you are so led.

Ed Gregory
Iuka

Prayer is best course

Editor:

Regretfully, racism is alive and well in the great state of Mississippi. As to whether or not Beulah Church in Magee is guilty of what they are accused of, I do not know. I suggest that our great Southern Baptist Convention leaders form a panel of biracial representatives and speak to the church leaders in regard to the charges against them.

For the sake of this important discussion, let us assume they are guilty as charged, and expel them from our denomination for their gross sin against God and man.

For all those guilty of partaking in alcoholic fluids, let us purge them from the church. For all the people who are guilty of having extramarital affairs, let us send them on their way. Those who condone abortion are worthy of expulsion. Do the get the picture,

Mr. Carson? (See Letters to the Editor, June 20 issue).

Already we would have expelled so many people we could not pay the utilities for the church. If I may be so bold, may I offer a better idea than expulsion? It is called prayer. James 5:15-16 states: "... Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

No one can doubt that racism exists in the hearts of mankind, both black and white. I think the best thing to do is to pray for their healing, not for their condemnation.

Ronald Purser, pastor
Calhoun Church
Taylorsville

Baffled by boycott

Editor:

Boycotts against Disney or anyone baffle me. Where in the Bible are we commanded to use the power of money to deal with sinners? Shouldn't our tools be the Word of God, prayer, and godly lives?

Why are we so shocked that godless men act like godless men? It seems we are very concerned that people live moral lives on their way to hell. Has anyone ever come to Christ because of a boycott?

What about believers within a company? Doesn't a boycott isolate them in their efforts to provide for their families and to show Christ to others in their jobs?

Aren't boycotts unfair when companies are singled out for adverse action while equally deplorable companies go free? Shall we boycott Ted Turner's Atlanta Braves or Zondervan book stores, owned by Fox Net? What about Christian radio stations, owned by rock or country stations? Some are run or owned by homosexuals!

Did Jesus die so Disney could make "G" movies? Which glorifies God — a godless company making moral decisions, or sinners converted? Shouldn't our letters and actions be filled with the gospel rather than threats?

Alice Talley
Columbus

Proud to be Baptist

Editor:

How like Guy Henderson to announce his resignation and in the same issue print a letter full of unfair and unjustified criticism of his work as editor. How Satan must laugh and rub his hands with glee whenever he reads of brothers calling each other names which are often harsh and untrue.

As Southern Baptists and Christians, we are purposed to win the world to Christ. If we insist on spending our time and money monitoring who is liberal, conservative, right-wing, left-wing, *ad nauseum*, the Lord will

deal with us.

Because of a previous commitment, I was only able to attend the Wednesday evening session of the [SBC's annual meeting]. It made me proud to be a Southern Baptist. Highlighted by the raising of nearly \$300,000 in cash and pledges for the rebuilding of black churches, followed by the Zambian Male Choir, and the presentation of the new missionary appointments.

It was climaxed by the testimony of a missionary to Rwanda-Burundi who spoke of her narrow escape from that troubled region. She told the audience that she was returning very soon with the confidence that God wanted her there. The screen then darkened and a voice began singing, "Hark, the Gentle Voice of Jesus Calling."

The screen lightened and we could see that it was the missionary who had just spoken. What a blessing! Needless to say, there were some actions taken by subsequent sessions that were at the least controversial as demonstrated by the media reaction. Perhaps a "summer Bible study" is in order for some of our Southern Baptist leaders on Romans 14.

J.B. Morgan
Long Beach

Don't lose our salt

Editor:

While reading the guest opinion by R.K. Houston on the SBC-led boycott of Disney (June 28), I felt I must respond.

First, Mr. Houston stated that we should question the sense of a boycott of the company which produces more "G"-rated movies than any other movie company. We need to realize that Disney is in the movie business to make money. They have a virtual monopoly on the children's movie industry because it is a multi-million dollar business, not because of a sense of moral duty to provide quality children's entertainment.

Disney's latest venture includes another big money-maker — pornography. They have also contracted Martin Scorsese (director of "The Last Temptation of Christ") to produce several movies for them.

I don't see how these decisions, as well as others by Disney, can be overlooked simply because the company provides one family-friendly movie a year.

The statement by Mr. Houston that the boycott provides other Christians an opportunity to "laugh at Southern Baptists" was ill-thought. We are not responsible to others for our actions, only to God.

Mr. Houston also states that the SBC placed its members in the "impossible position of depriving their children of Disney entertainment." There are lots of alternatives to Disney. Granted, they are not as convenient or as publicized, but they are out there.

Yes, Christ taught us to live in this world and not separate our-

selves from it. But he also told us to hate the things of the world and not to lose our saltiness. Let's not become bland Christians just for the sake of convenience and public opinion.

Diane D. Hardin
Hattiesburg

Acting on conscience

Editor:

I feel compelled to respond to the letter from David C. Frazier in [the July 11 issue of] *The Baptist Record*.

As a parent of two small boys, I, along with the American Family Association, have been boycotting Disney for some time now. I was glad when the SBC messengers voted to do the same. I do not consider myself to be a self-righteous Pharisee when I try to teach my children to refrain from the ways of the world and conform to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

My 6-year-old son asked when we were going to see "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." I explained to him that we were boycotting Disney and all the products and movies the company makes. When he asked why, I told him that they did things that Jesus did not like and that went against the teachings of the Bible. After that discussion, he decided not to go to Burger King that evening for dinner because of the "Hunchback" kids' meals. I was proud that he chose on his own.

We have enjoyed Disney movies and products in the past as much as any family. But we made a decision together as parents not to spend our money on Disney products until they return to the family values they once had. Our children are seeing their parents stand up for something that they believe in.

We do not condemn anyone for not participating in this boycott. Everyone has to act as they feel the Lord leads them.

Rebecca Crosby
Bogue Chitto

Witness amidst sin

Editor:

There are some points that I would like to address about the Disney boycott issue.

Growing up in the church, I was always taught that although the world is full of sin, we need to learn to live beside these sinners as a witness. Did or did not Jesus dine with harlots and Pharisees? Jesus taught us that he was here to witness to those in need, not those who already knew him. How can we witness to a wide section of our society if we alienate them?

I'm not saying that we should blindly accept all that society does and quietly go our way. The Lord always taught us to stand up for our beliefs, not alienate people.

Then the word "judgment" comes to mind. Jesus taught us that we should judge not; that privilege belongs to the Lord of

lords alone. It's not our job. Although we should not condone such activity as homosexual lifestyle, we should also not condemn. Isn't there a difference between condemnation and chastisement?

These, I believe, are the values that we should teach our children, not the absurdity of non-tolerance and the sin of being judgmental.

Dorothy L. Evans
Long Beach

Kuwait's "apostate"?

Editor:

Like FMB President Jerry Rankin, I am appalled that a Kuwaiti religious court sentenced Robert Hussein to death, simply because he is a Christian. That ruling violates both the Kuwaiti constitution, which provides for freedom of religion, and international standards for individual freedom.

Isn't it ironic that the country that our soldiers liberated from Iraqi rule would treat Christians the same way that the Iraqis treated the Kuwaitis during the Gulf War? Yes, it certainly is. Such ruthless acts on Kuwait's part make me wonder why we even bothered to help Kuwait in the first place.

During the Gulf War, our leaders told us that we were fighting to liberate "freedom-loving, democratic Kuwait" from the clutches of Saddam Hussein.

They lied to us. Kuwait was not a democracy then, and it is not a democracy now. In fact, it was never a democracy. So what did we accomplish in Kuwait? It seems to me that we didn't accomplish anything.

Because of the persecution of Robert Hussein and other Christians in Kuwait, we should cut off all relations with Kuwait. If the Kuwaitis know that we mean business, they will stop the persecution.

Kevin Waller
Bude

English class set for August

A conversational English workshop is set for two weekends, Aug. 9-10 and Aug. 17-18, at the Metro (Hinds-Madison) Association office. Participants will learn to teach English to foreign-born persons.

Workshop schedule is: Friday evenings, 6-8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Participants should bring sack lunches; drinks will be provided.

The workshop will be taught by Rene Sugg and Clara Walker, both Home Mission Board Literacy Missions associates.

Cost for the two weekends is \$20. To pre-register or for more information, contact the Metro Association office at 6530 Dogwood View Pkwy., Jackson, MS 39413; telephone (601) 362-8676.

Homecomings

Thursday, August 1, 1996

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Revival Dates

Shiloh, Oxford: Aug. 4; services begin at 11 a.m.; Tommie Inmon, speaker; lunch in fellowship hall; 1 p.m. singing with The Fathers' Sons; Ronnie Mays, interim pastor.

First, Overtt: Aug. 4; 10:55 a.m.; noon lunch; 1:15 p.m. singing; Maurice Flowers, Laurel, guest speaker; Tommy D. Mangum, pastor.

Salem, Raymond: Aug. 11; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; and 6 p.m.; Jimmy McLendon, Greenwood,

guest speaker; Suzanne McLendon, Greenwood, guest singer; revival, Aug. 9-11, 7 p.m.; Lee Kirk, pastor.

D'Lo (Simpson): Aug. 18; 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; Robert Sones, pastor.

Rock Bluff, Morton: Aug. 4, 10:45 a.m.; revival Aug. 5-9, 7:30 nightly; Aaron Lewis, Laurel, evangelist; Mickey Ferguson, pastor.

Valley Park (Sharkey-Issaquena): Aug. 4; lunch in fellowship hall; Dennis Salley, pastor.

Gatesville (Copiah): July 31-Aug. 4; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Harvey Dallas, Richland, evangelist; Roland Dear, Florence, music; Millard Mackey, pastor.

Concord, Yazoo City: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Raddin, First Church, Yazoo City, evangelist; Henry Kirk, music; James Garner, pastor.

Holcomb, Holcomb: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-

Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Rev Yancey, evangelist; Clyde Cranford, music; Randall Ashley, pastor.

Steele, Forest: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Gerald Hodges, South Fulton, Tenn., evangelist; Greg Boggan, Hickory, music; John Boggan, pastor.

First, McLaurin: Aug. 4-8; Sunday, homecoming, Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., guest speaker John Evans at 11 a.m., and noon lunch; revival, Sunday, 7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Greg Clemts, Belzoni, evangelist; Sam Clemts, music; Carlis Braswell, pastor.

Holly Springs, Brookhaven: Aug. 4-9; 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, music by New Wine, 1 p.m.; Wiley Reid, Friendship Church, Brookhaven, evangelist; Billy Smith, Mt. Moriah Church, Brookhaven, music; Glenn McInnis, pastor.

Enon, Louisville: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Bernette Fielder, Coldwater, evangelist; Reggie Lovorn, music; Robert Jackson, pastor.

McIvor, Batesville: Aug. 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Andy Brasher, Como, evangelist; James McPhail, Batesville, music; Robert B. Smith Jr., pastor.

First, Lambert: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7:30 p.m.; Luther Price, Clarksdale, evangelist; Jon Blouin, Batesville, music; Steve Huber, pastor.

Liberty Hill, Pope: Aug. 11-16; week night services begin at 7:30 p.m.; Gary Jackson, Sturgis, speaker; Frank West, Batesville, music; James Lee Bailey, pastor.

Old Union, Shannon: Aug. 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkerson, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Jimmy Chapman, Tupelo, music; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

Damascus, Hazlehurst: Aug. 11-16; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; speakers are Pat Bufkin, Sunday morning, Albert Parsons, Sunday evening, Robert Netterville, Monday, Leroy Brewer, Tuesday, Larry Hart, Wednesday, Glen McInnis, Thursday, and Daryl Oster, Friday; Carl Thornton, music; David Patterson, pastor.

Hickory (Newton): Aug. 18-23; services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tom Cox, Mountainburg, Ark., evangelist; Rodney Anderson, pastor.

West Laurel (Jones): Aug. 25-28; services, Sunday, 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m. nightly; David Miller, Heber Springs, Ark., evangelist; Floyd Grice, West Laurel Church, music; Cary Worthington, pastor.

Mt. Moriah, Weir: Aug. 4-7; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Ron Linkins, French Camp Radio, evangelist; different music group each night; Dale Nowell, pastor.

First, Moss (Jasper): Aug. 4-7; Sunday, morning service, lunch, afternoon singing; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Grady Crowell, Quitman, evangelist; Frank Aaron, Moss, music; Scott Smith, pastor.

Ludlow (Scott): Aug. 4-8; Sunday, regular services and noon lunch; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 nightly; Charles Maples, evangelist; Ronnie Jones, pastor.

VBS Results

Corinth, Magee: June VBS; average attendance, 121; 10 professions of faith; Lynsol Richmond, pastor.

Como, Como: July 8-12; 34 students and 24 workers enrolled; offering, \$60; six professions of faith; Andy Brasher, pastor.

McIvor, Batesville: June 10-14; 59 students and 19 workers enrolled; offering, \$48; Robert Smith, pastor.

Shubuta (Clarke): July 15-19; average attendance, 87; offering, \$319.54; 15 professions of faith; five baptized; James Manning, pastor.

Staying Well Informed

25 Years Of Giving 'More Heart' to Mississippians The Heart Center at Baptist Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

On July 19, 1971, a new era began at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center when Dr. Thomas Kilgore performed Mississippi's first open-heart surgery in a private hospital. Twenty-five years, 35,000 catheterizations and nearly 10,000 open heart surgeries later, The Heart Center at Baptist still leads in providing cardiac care to Mississippians.

We've dedicated the summer to commemorating the 25th year anniversary of The Heart Center and, most importantly, its patients. Our new campaign, "More Experience. More Resources. More Heart," aims to educate people about The Heart Center and features real patients telling their real stories. When we invited current and former patients to a homecoming open house, more than 300 current and former patients, staff members, physicians and guests attended.

Building on our outstanding history, we're committed to future advancements. As technological development continues its rapid pace and the medical world experiences an explosion of new procedures, we are dedicated to remaining the leader among Mississippi's cardiac care providers. Recently, Baptist became the first in central Mississippi to use the Rotablator®, a revolutionary system that cleans out arteries using a tiny, diamond-studded device that removes arterial plaque. Removing the accumulated plaque restores normal blood flow and reduces the risk of blockages. The Rotablator® provides an exciting alternative to older technologies, such as balloon angioplasty. We're also providing a number of other high-tech approaches to heart care, as well as pioneering programs such as Cardiac Rehabilitation.

Yet the real secret to the Heart Center's success lies not in our technology and techniques, but in our people. With our world-class staff of physicians, surgeons, nurses, technicians and support personnel, our people make every effort to ensure that your visit to The Heart Center is as comfortable, safe and rewarding as possible. Every patient receives service with a personal touch that often forges lifetime relationships. One such example is the Reverend Fred Morris, pastor of a Monticello Baptist church and former Heart Center patient, who says, "The Heart Center is part of my family."

On this occasion, we want to thank the people of Mississippi for their support, and renew our pledge to medical excellence and compassionate care in the years to come.

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Names in the News

Dale Owens of Jackson died July 6 after suffering a massive heart attack June 21. He was 39.



Owens

Owens, an organ major at Southwestern Seminary, had been in San Antonio on a choir tour with First Church of Arlington, Texas, where he served as organist. After an examination, he was admitted to the hospital in San Antonio. He never regained consciousness. Owens is survived by his wife Kay of Raymond and his parents, A. D. and Jean Owens, members of Woodville Heights Church, Jackson.

Steve Walker, a member of Strong River Church, Simpson



Walker

Association, has entered into the ministry of full time music evangelism. He has been in the music ministry since 1985 and has served as minister of music in several churches in Mississippi including Pine Grove, Goodwater, Eastside, and Harrisville in Simpson Association, and Highland in Copiah Association.

He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi's School of Music. Walker, 31, and his wife Karen have two children. He is available for revivals and gospel concerts and can be reached at Rt. 1, Box 128-A, Pinola MS 39149 or by calling (601) 847-4375.

Bayou View Church, Gulfport, honored **Tinie Slade** with a retirement reception following 15 years as church secretary. The four



Slade

pastors she served with were R. Bryant Barnes, Allan Moseley, Gary McCormick, and Thomas O. Mosser, present pastor. She has been a member of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association for 15 years and served in all offices of the association as well as conducted workshops both at Camp Garywa and Gulfshore Assembly.

Country Woods Church, Metro Association, recently ordained two of its members to the gospel ministry. **Richard Floyd**, ordained on June 2, is pastor of New Haven Church, Terry. **Gregory Davis**, ordained on July 14, is pastor of Hebron Church, Bentonia.

The board of trustees of **Oak Hill Baptist Academy** in Mouth of Wilson, Va., recently voted to name a new 50-acre outdoor center in honor of a distinguished alumnus, **J. Ralph Noonkester** (class of 1940), former president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

Rodrigo Souza Lima, an exchange student from Brazil, accepted Christ as personal Lord and Savior and was baptized on June 23. He returned home to Brazil on July 1 to minister to people in his homeland. Rodrigo resided with Mr. and Mrs. Mark Long of Como during his stay in the United States. Andy Brasher is pastor of Como Church.

Wayne Worsham was licensed to preach at Friendship Church, North Central Association. Worsham received his education at Itawamba Community College, William Carey College, and plans to graduate from the University of Mississippi in May 1997. He is available for full time youth



Worsham

ministries and associate pastor. Guy Hughes is pastor of Friendship Church.

Staff Changes

Chip Stevens joined the staff of **First Church, Biloxi**, on July 1 as



Stevens

minister to students. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served for three years at First Church, Crystal Springs.

First Church, Richton, has called **Rick Mitchell** as pastor. He will begin his ministry Aug. 11. A native of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Mitchell received his education at the University of Alabama and New Orleans Seminary. He previously served Taylorville Church, Tuscaloosa.

Bay Vista to help marriages

Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, will host "Making Love Last Forever," a marriage enrichment seminar, on Aug. 9-10.

Carl Dickerson, family counselor from the Laurel-Hattiesburg area, will be the seminar's leader.

The seminar will begin with registration at 6:15 p.m. on Aug. 9, followed by a supper and evening session, and will close at 9 p.m.

The Aug. 10 session begins with a continental breakfast at 8 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.

Cost for the event is \$20 per couple. Participants should mail their fees by Aug. 5 to the church at 2485 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS 39531. For more information, call (601) 388-1166.

Billy Whitaker has resigned **Oak Grove Church, Shubuta**, effective Sept. 1. He and his wife Catherine will be going to Fukuo-ka, Japan, on a mission trip. They are due to return home in mid-November. At that time he will be available for pulpit supply, and can be reached at (601) 776-6245 or 483-0930.

David E. Townsend has resigned as pastor of **Coaltown Church, Purvis**, due to health reasons. Although his health prevents him from serving as a pastor, he is available for supply, interim, or special meetings. He can be contacted at 161 Purvis Oloh Rd., Purvis, MS 39475; telephone (601) 794-8684.

Center Terrace Church, Canton, has called **Tom F. Rayburn** as interim pastor, effective July 14.

Jeffrey Lenn Clark, formerly associate pastor of **First Church, Hattiesburg**, has been called as the church's new pastor, effective Aug. 11. Clark, 35, joined the staff in 1986 as minister of youth and was named associate pastor in 1994. The Hamilton, Ala., native is a graduate of Mississippi College, Southwestern Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary.

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Missionary News

Karen Brown, missionary to Colombia, is on the field (address: Apartado Aereo 51382, Barranquilla, Colombia). She is a native of Golden.

David and Gloria Glaze, missionaries to Argentina, are on the field (address: Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, Argentina). He was born in Louisville, Ky., and considers Jackson his hometown. The former Gloria Marler was born in Tylertown and considers Jackson her hometown.

Milton and Pamela Kliesch, missionaries to Togo, are in the States (address: 1631 Main St., Franklinton, LA 70438). He was born in Magnolia, and considers Kentwood, La., his hometown. The former Pamela Palmer of Alabama was born in Hartford and considers Slocumb her hometown.

Russell and Melinda Kyzar, missionaries to Costa Rica, are in the States (address: 105 Billy Byrd Dr., Clinton, MS 39056). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Jackson and considers Natchez his hometown. The former Melinda Henderson, daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries, was born in Columbia, and lived in South Korea; Yazoo City, Jackson, and Biloxi; and the Philippines.

Franklin and Margaret Lay,

missionaries to Costa Rica, are in the States (address: Rte. 1, Box 151, Prentiss, MS 39474). He was born in Portsmouth, Va., and considers Union his hometown. The former Margaret Carraway was born in Columbia and considers Prentiss her hometown.

Frederick and Carolyn Massingill, missionaries to The Gambia, are on the field (address: Baptist Mission, P.O. Box 2376, Sere Kunda via Banjul, The Gambia). He was born in Birmingham, Ala., and considers Knoxville, Tenn., his hometown. The former Carolyn Smith was born in Laurel and also considers Knoxville her hometown.

Timothy and Dorcas Patterson, missionaries to Honduras, are in the States (address: Rte. 3, Box 89, Camden, TN 38320). He was

born in Biloxi and considers Camden, Tenn., his hometown. The former Dorcas Villarreal of Texas was born in Houston and considers Fort Worth her hometown.

Frank and Jerry Anne Pevey, missionaries to Tanzania, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 9414, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania). Both are natives of Mississippi and consider Skene their hometown. He was born in Hazlehurst, and she, the former Jerry Anne Howarth, in Cleveland.

Robert and Beverly Thomas, Baptist representatives to Yemen, are in the States (address: 1181 Stage Rd., Senatobia, MS 38668). A native of Tennessee, he was born in Etowah and lived in Memphis. The former Beverly Buford was born in Memphis and grew up in Senatobia.



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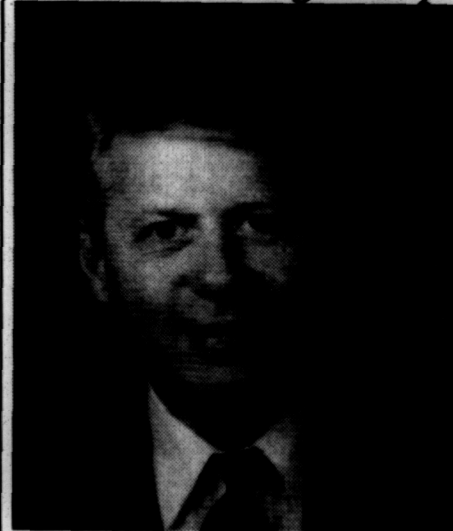
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Churches damaged by arson receive BSSB offer of free materials

NASHVILLE (BP) — As an expression of concern and support, the Baptist Sunday School Board is contacting churches damaged or destroyed by arson in the last 18 months, with an offer of up to 13 free books.

"As a publisher of resources for churches and church leaders, we are making available at no cost some books which we hope can be useful in replacing those which may have been lost or for your use in planning for the future," BSSB President James T. Draper Jr. wrote in a letter being sent to the churches.

Draper said church names and addresses are being compiled by the BSSB from numerous sources,

including state Baptist conventions, Christian Life Commission, Brotherhood Commission, lists published in newspapers, and others.

"We certainly understand that our action does not begin to address the overall needs of these churches as they rebuild and look to the future," Draper said. "However, we wanted to do something tangible to communicate our concern and support. We believe these resources can be valuable tools for leaders and members."

He said the offer is being made to African American and other churches victimized by arson. It is not limited to Southern Baptist churches. The list of 13 books from the board's church growth group and Broadman & Holman Publishers includes study resources such as the Experiencing God Bible, Holman Bible Dictionary, and Holman Bible Handbook, as well as books for leaders including Kingdom Principles for Church Growth, Church: God's People on Mission, and Church Leadership Team Handbook.

The board has established a toll-free number for churches to call and place orders after receiving Draper's letter. The number is (800) 357-7029.

Thursday, August 1, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Just for the Record

Charles S. "Chuck" Kelley Jr., president and professor of evangelism at New Orleans Seminary, will deliver the commencement address at Mississippi College's summer graduation on Aug. 3. The ceremonies are scheduled for 2 p.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Degrees will be conferred on 195 candidates by President Howell W. Todd.

Old Union Church of Shannon, Lee Association, will observe Memorial Services on Aug. 4. Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. and worship services at 11 a.m. A covered dish lunch will be served in the Family Life Center. Kenneth Kelly, pastor, will bring the message. Andy Brazeal will be in charge of the music.

Star Church, Star, will have a "Day of Celebration" on Aug. 11, beginning with a 90th anniversary and homecoming service at 10 a.m. followed by lunch. A dedication service for the new church building will be held at 2 p.m. followed by a reception. Victor Byrd is pastor.

Mars Hill Church, Philadelphia, held note burning ceremonies for a parking lot on June 16. Taking part in the ceremony were Bernice Sisson, LaRue Stone, Spiva Keene and Janie Keene, charter members; and Tony Linley, pastor.



First Church, Senatobia, recently held coronation services for its GAs (top photo) and Acteens (above). Emmy Jarjoura is director for both girls' groups.



Zion Hill Church, Wesson, held note burning ceremonies on June 30 for the church building. Pictured are Jimmy Wooten, Ross Sandifer, Jerry Porter, Charles Hamilton, Tony Waltman, Cecil Reeves, Robert McClen-Don, and Daryl Oster, pastor.

The Mississippi College Department of Sociology and Social Work has announced the establishment of a National Social

Work Honor Society chapter. The Epsilon Psi Chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society was established with 13 charter members, including: Beverly Baker, Jackson; Lesha Nichole Bates, Jackson; Courtney Boone Holmes, Clinton; Millie Long Clanton, Eupora; Chad Lewis Hambrick, Canton; Jeffery Darren Owens, Vicksburg; Aubrey Dwayne Parker, Laurel; Kimberly Sue Robbins, Jackson; Tina Marie Vineyard, Greenville; and Nancy Ann Wambsgans, Brandon.

Revival Results

Vaiden (Carroll-Montgomery): July 7-12; Bill Causey, Terry Long, Ronnie Robinson, Jon Gillis, James Fancher, J.W. Brister, evangelists; Jeff Chambley, Greenwood, music; one profession of faith; Leon Holly, pastor.

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BRIARWOOD DRIVE BAPTIST Church seeks part-time Youth Director. Call (601) 956-4561 or send inquiries to: 245 Briarwood Drive, Jackson, MS 39206.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, Miss., is seeking an individual for the position of Minister of Music/Education. Resume may be sent to First Baptist Church, 102 E. Main St., Florence, MS 39073, Attn: Personnel Committee.

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Uniform Trust in God



By Jim Phillips
Psalm 40

There comes a time in the life of every believer when he must rely upon everything he has learned as a Christian. A time when trials, tribulation, and trouble cause him to draw deep from the well of faith. A time when he finds that only God can get him out of his plight. He finds himself in a dilemma that he knows for a fact that if God does not rise up and do something, nothing will be done. If you've not been there yet, you will. If you are there now, hold on — for God has a word about such a struggle.

It is precisely a moment like this that our biblical writer was experiencing. He described a struggle which seemed to have been a part of his own making. He seemingly cried in remorse, "Look what I've brought down upon my soul! How could I have been so careless?" (v. 12).

Most of us can identify times when we wished we could go back and undo some of the things that have left scar tissue on our souls. The psalmist thankfully came to understand that regardless of his trouble, self-inflicted or brought on by others, God could be found to be trusted and faithful.

Even though we would agree as Christians that God responds to our cries, it can seem as though it takes him forever to respond. The psalmist had to practice patience as he watched and waited for the hand of God to move (vv. 1-2). His searching for patience was not without affect for it was teaching him to expect, hope, and trust in God's redeeming activity. Note that he did get a response whereby God turned and heard his cry. It is precisely this discipline that we must put into practice whenever our situation warrants a response from the Lord. During our watching and waiting, the Word of God can come alive and real like no other time in our life.

Upon experiencing God's deliverance, the writer broke forth in praise to glorify God's goodness and to remind others of his trustworthiness (vv. 2-3). He declared that a truly blessed or happy person is one who knows he has a Lord who is present, active, and alert to his children's plight (vv. 4-5). He acknowledges that God is working in and through the lives of his people and that his planned activities are completely in his control.

The psalmist's deliverance broke forth in declaring God's trustability to any and all who have ever needed a reminder of God's available love and truth (vv. 9-10). He wanted to go on record in the assembled masses that he had tested God's faithfulness and found that God was indeed a God of his Word. His salvation or divine deliverance resulted from a heart that confessed its wrong, and God proved to be faithful and true. He wanted others to be willing to confide in just such a Lord as he had. He pleaded that God would always be there even after this emergency passed, so that his life would continue to punctuate in praise (v. 11).

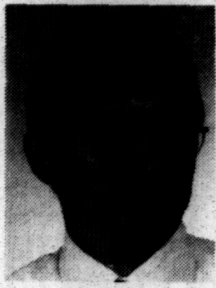
Perhaps that would be a word to all of us that God is not for emergencies only, but for all of our days. He will respond in those hours of crisis but he would rather walk and talk with us in the day-to-day matters as well.

In verses 16b-17, the psalmist concluded his thoughts with a reminder for all who have ever experienced God's faithfulness to never fail to declare his salvation. In this Old Testament context the idea would be understood as God stepping in and delivering a person from sure demise. In the New Testament, we might better understand salvation as being the experience whereby God delivers a person from the sure punishment of their sin by the atoning work of Jesus Christ on the cross. In either case, God has taken steps to deliver an unworthy sinner by his intentional grace and mercy which results in a thankful heart.

There's nothing like a personal testimony whereby an individual can identify with the experience of another's plight. The problem is, however, that we're perhaps too cautious (or proud) about revealing both our difficulty and God's rescue. What we might experience and how God brings us through it may be God's very intention for the trouble in the first place so as to turn and strengthen a fellow struggler in their time of distress. Where have you found the trustworthiness of God lately? Be faithful in revealing God's activity in it all!

Phillips is pastor, North Greenwood Church, Greenwood.

Bible Book Six trumpets herald woe



By Ronald Bishop
Revelation 8, 9

Four Trumpets (Rev. 8). Revelation 8 tells of the opening of the seventh seal on the scroll of Chapter 5. The first six seals have been opened and have revealed various aspects of the ongoing trouble that face God's people in every age, especially during the first century persecution of Christians.

The seventh seal brings the blowing of the seven trumpets, which seems to announce the judgment of God and the consequences that await the wicked. The message of these trumpets was directed to evil people of every age, but especially to the persecutors of the Christians in the first century.

John first reminded the Christians that God was attentive to their prayers and valued their commitment. The judgment was not intended for them nor would they suffer the brunt of the misery. After God heard the prayers of his people, an angel threw fire from heaven upon the earth to begin the judgment.

The first trumpet brought hail and fire and blood upon the earth. People in the fields, on the highways, and in their homes would succumb to this great natural disaster. Not only did John see people being afflicted, but a third of the earth, the grass, and the trees were destroyed.

The second trumpet brought a great burning mountain into the sea, destroying a third of the sea and its contents.

The third trumpet marked the ruin of a third of the fresh water by a star from heaven that made the waters bitter and unfit for consumption.

The fourth trumpet brought the darkening of a third of the sun, the moon, and the stars. The length of the day was shortened by a third, and the night became even darker a third of the time.

After the blowing of the fourth trumpet John heard an eagle crying, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets which the three angels are about to blow!"

The repetition of the "woe" three times heightened the severity of the misery. "Those who dwell on the earth" refers to the enemies of God, the persecutors of the Christians. The Christians did live on the earth, but as Paul wrote to the Philippians, "our citizenship is in heaven."

Two more trumpets (Rev. 9). Chapter 9 opens with the fifth trumpet, indicating a star from heaven falling to earth, holding the key to the bottomless pit. He opened the pit and out swarmed locust-like creatures that afflicted God's enemies with great misery.

The sixth trumpet brings permission for four angels who had been reserved for the mission of killing a third of mankind. The massive number of their troops would make resistance futile. Even the horses are invincible, containing the destructive powers of several vicious animals.

One would think that those not killed in this battle would see their error and give up their wicked ways. Not so. Even this great destruction would not turn them.

What was John saying in these two chapters? Like the first six seals, the seventh brings misery primarily upon the persecutors of the Christians.

God afflicts the earth and "those who dwell on the earth," all to no avail. John wanted the Christians to know that even if they could not see God's hand during their great persecution, he was active, fighting on their behalf.

The Romans who were demanding that the Christians worship Caesar were hard-hearted. Even the wrath of God would not change their direction.

Today evil permeates our society. Is God absent? Is he unconcerned? No, he is working in ways of which we are unaware to bring about the end of evil and the triumph of goodness.

Bishop teaches philosophy and religion at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville.

Life and Work Principles of work, wealth



By Cynthia Douglas
Proverbs 6, 11, 20-24

Some people say: "No one will ever know," or "This company is so large they will never catch me." Others may say: "It does not matter if I give my employer an honest day's work." What principles should guide our actions related to work and wealth?

Is getting ahead at work or becoming wealthy the main goal in life? This study will explore these questions as part of the unit "Aiming for Excellence." In Proverbs, four basic principles about work and finances are given: practice honesty, work diligently, plan wisely, and set priorities.

Practice honesty (Prov. 20:23; 21:6; 23:10-11). Proverbs 20:23 says God hates dishonesty as in differing weights and dishonest scales. Another form of dishonesty is given in 21:6 when the dangers of a lying tongue are given. In 23:10-11, God cautions against moving the boundary stone or encroaching on someone else's property.

God hates dishonesty. We are instructed by God's Word to maintain integrity in both the work of our minds and the work of our hands. God is all-knowing and he alone knows the depth of our honesty. How are you living according to this standard? Do you give your employer an honest day's work? How do you deal with the temptation to be dishonest in reporting financial matters? Remember, God detests dishonesty and expects believers to practice the highest standards of honesty.

Work diligently (Prov. 6:6-8). The example of the busy ant is given to show how, without a overseer or ruler, the ant is always busy preparing for today and for tomorrow. The ant is small and seems insignificant yet was chosen to be commended for its work ethic.

Whether working at home, as a full-time student, facing job layoffs, or experiencing unemployment, God's standard of honest work does not vary. Family responsibilities and community actions always offer worthwhile work opportunities. Throughout the Bible, God speaks of work as honorable and right. Believers should aim for excellence in whatever job they hold. The fruits of our labor provide for today and for tomorrow.

Plan wisely (Prov. 11:15; 21:5; 24:27). Proverbs 11:15 warns against obligating oneself for another person's debt. Chapter 21, verse 5 contrasts wise planning and haste. Wise planning of the diligent worker is the plan of God for us. But haste, or lack of planning, will result in poverty. Proverbs 24:27 teaches there is an order to work, first things must come first. One should be able to support a family by working hard. "Build your house" refers to getting married and raising children.

Because God loves us, he planned wisely to meet our every need and to give us guidelines for life. His plan instructs us to be good stewards and to manage finances wisely.

Set priorities (Prov. 22:1; 23:4-5). More desirable than riches is a good name (22:1). Chapter 23, verses 4-5 instruct us to "have the wisdom to show restraint." A good name is a much higher priority than riches. Likewise, a high priority is set on our relationship to riches and its demands. Riches are temporary — at death only what has been done for Christ will matter. A high priority of our life should be to maintain a right perspective.

Wise people do not set riches as a goal in life if that means harming themselves and others. To be a workaholic means going to the extreme in hours and intensity of labor. The opposite is to be shiftless, not working regularly by choice, and not providing for family needs.

God has given biblical principles to incorporate our job and earnings into the total framework of life. He expects his people to deal honestly and fairly in their work, to plan wisely, and to put wealth in its proper perspective. Are you willing to evaluate your attitude toward work and finances? God is always available to help believers to make not just good choices but the very best choice! He is concerned with every aspect of our lives.

Douglas is a member of First Church, Columbus.

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Ora Baptist Church
Warren Keith Yeatman
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Fulgham

(to be continued)



Young people and adults from several churches in Sharkey-Issaquena Baptist Association volunteered their time on The India Nunnery Campus at The Baptist Children's Village. These missionaries spent their mornings painting and landscaping. After assisting with grounds beautification the young people enjoyed swimming and fellowship with BCV residents in the afternoon.



Valden Baptist Church and property owner Wayne Cooke hosted a trail ride for BCV young people and staff from the Reedy Acres Campus in Water Valley and the Farrow Manor Campus in Independence. Activities included camping out in tents provided by the Army Reserve,



horseback riding, fishing, picnicking, kite flying, and organized activities led by Holmes Junior College BSU Director Michael Kelly. The weekend culminated with Sunday morning worship led by BCV young people and Unit Director of the Farrow Manor Campus, Ed Nixon.

capsules

SOUTHEASTERN REZONING REQUEST TURNED DOWN A SECOND TIME: WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) — For the second time in a little more than a year, commissioners in Wake Forest, N.C., have turned down a request to rezone property owned by Southeastern Seminary for a shopping center. The commissioners voted 4-0 against the request, which would have cleared the way for the seminary to sell 34 acres of undeveloped land to raise money for expansion of its campus. At public hearings, several residents and merchants reportedly spoke against rezoning the property, saying it would draw business away from Wake Forest's downtown district. "Obviously, we're disappointed" with the rezoning vote, seminary spokesman Greg Kingry said. "We would not have pursued it if we did not think it was kind of a win-win situation for the school and the town." Seminary officials are taking it in stride, Kingry added. "There are too many positive things going on here for us to focus on something like this," he said.

SBC'S OLDEST PREACHER DIES AT AGE 105: MELBOURNE, Ark. (ABP) — A 105-year-old Baptist minister, thought to be the oldest living Southern Baptist preacher, died July 7 at his home in Melbourne, Ark. William Oscar Taylor died of congestive heart failure. He was a co-founder of Southern Baptist College (now Williams Baptist College) in Walnut Ridge, Ark., and was one of its first faculty members. A former associational missionary, he also founded three Baptist youth camps. Taylor became a Christian at age 17, preached his first sermon Oct. 12, 1912, at Caledonia Church in Union County and was ordained in 1913 at Sweet Hill Church in Arkadelphia. Taylor, who retired from the active ministry in 1969, recently celebrated his 105th birthday by preaching at his home church in Melbourne. He also was the author of three books, including *Seventy Years in the Ministry* and *The Old Timers Did It This Way*.

PEOPLE WITH FAITH LESS AFRAID OF DYING, STUDY SHOWS: ROCKVILLE, Md. (ABP) — People with religious involvement have less fear about death than those with no religious faith, according to a research summary from the National Institute for Healthcare Research. The summary cited a study by the California School of Professional Psychology in Fresno, Calif. Researchers surveyed 200 people from various religious groups about their faith and their feelings about death. "Strong religious convictions and the belief in an afterlife are associated with significantly less anxiety and depression regarding the idea of dying," said David Larson, president of the institute. The non-profit organization is dedicated to conducting and distributing research on the significance of spirituality to health and well-being. Unexpectedly, the report stated, those who said the most important aspect of religion was the possibility of achieving life after death had higher death depression and anxiety than individuals who did not believe this was the most important aspect of their religion. "In other words," said Larson, "a person's death anxiety is only lowered by a personal commitment and investment in religion, not by paying lip service to a certain religion just in case there really is an afterlife."

CHURCHES WARNED OF SCAM WRONGLY AFFILIATED WITH NICKY CRUZ: COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (ABP) — Churches in at least three states have fallen victim to a scam related to a former gang member turned evangelist. A letter from Nicky Cruz Outreach states that someone claiming to be Cruz' cousin has dishonestly coaxed money from churches in California, Arizona, Florida, and other states. The person has called himself Jesse or Jerry Cruz, "and always says that he is a nephew of Nicky Cruz," according to Patrick Dow, executive administrator of Nicky Cruz Outreach. The scam artist tells a pastor or church administrator that he has been on a trip with students from Columbia University in New York, according to Dow. The person, who offers a contact at First Baptist Church in New York City, claims he has been left behind and needs money for an Amtrak ticket or hotel.

BSSB EDITOR FERNANDO GARCIA DIES BOARDING PLANE IN CUBA: NASHVILLE (BP) — Fernando Garcia, editor of children's materials in Spanish in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Multicultural Leadership Department, died July 18 of an apparent heart attack as he boarded a plane in Havana, Cuba. Garcia, 59, had been visiting family in his native Cuba and was returning to Nashville when he collapsed and died. Garcia joined the board in 1982 as a manuscript assistant in the language unit and held several editorial positions. Earlier, he was pastor of Calvaria Iglesia Bautista, 1966-81, and Primera Iglesia Bautista, 1963-66, both in Bryan, Texas. He also served as pastor of churches in Florida and Puerto Rico. He left Cuba in the 1960s and became a Christian after arriving in the United States. Omar Fernandez, manager of the resources development section in the Multicultural Leadership Department, said Garcia "was the first person I worked with at the board. We developed a friendship that was much deeper than supervisor and employee." Garcia was a graduate of the Instituto de Matanzas in Matanzas, Cuba, and the Hispanic Baptist Theological Seminary, San Antonio, Texas. He is survived by his wife Marta, three sons, and one daughter.

Missionary links her survival to Southern Baptists' prayers

CHARLESTON, S.C. (BP) — A daughter of missionaries, Margaret "Margie" Callaway Pearson grew up in Morocco, Ethiopia, and Yemen. Missions must run deep in her family's blood, for both she and her twin sister were appointed missionaries.

Not surprisingly, the two-term missionary to Ethiopia has something to say about prayer. Six years ago, Pearson's life was busy in the "home" part of her church-and-home assignment on a late January day.

"I was busy taking care of my then-4-year-old and three-month-

old sons," Pearson, currently on furlough, recounted during the recent South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) meeting in Taylors. "I had baked and decorated a cake for a little Ethiopian friend's fourth birthday and was preparing to go to the party."

"A fellow missionary came to my door and I said to her, 'I don't know what is wrong, but I have the biggest stomach ache on earth!'"

"But busy moms can't be sick," Pearson quipped, "so I went on to the party."

The spicy, oily Ethiopian food

did not set well and Margie soon wound up in an Ethiopian hospital, where she was misdiagnosed with an ectopic pregnancy and rushed into surgery. Before she reached the operating table, however, another symptom was discovered and surgery was canceled.

Margie was med-evacuated to Kenya, where she was diagnosed as having a ruptured appendix. She had surgery on Feb. 3. That date, Pearson said, is significant.

"Now, why didn't I die?" she asked. "Many die of a ruptured appendix" — especially in that region of the world.

"Well, my birthday is Feb. 3," she said. "That's important because, with the time zone differences, I was surrounded by prayer from Feb. 2 through 4," since WMU, Acteens, and Girls in Action remember missionaries in prayer on their birthdays. "And, boy, did I need it!"

"See God's power in prayer!" she challenged.

"When I returned to Ethiopia, I received a big banner in the mail which read, 'Margie Pearson, we prayed for you on February 3rd,'" she recounted. "It was signed by 300 GAs. We missionaries depend on those prayers!"

Through the years, Margie and her husband Jeff have depended on Southern Baptist prayers for their community development work. Coupled with evangelism and church planting, the work has helped meet Ethiopia's physical and spiritual needs. Ethiopia's horrible famine in the 1980s has become an avenue to reach people, she said.

The Pearsons will depend on Southern Baptists' prayers even more very soon. When they return to Ethiopia, they will be assigned to a still-unreached people group.

"They are a people who are spiritually blind.... We would like to introduce them to the Light of the world: Jesus."

"We cannot do this unless you come with us. Will you come with us in your prayers?" Pearson asked.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I divorced my adulterous spouse several years ago. Now I find myself in the same situation — committing adultery. Was I too hard on my first spouse?

Now you understand how a person gets trapped by sin. You did not one day think to yourself, "Today I will commit adultery." There is a process. First there is the thought, then meditation on the thought, and finally action on the thought. Examine the reasons you turned to adultery, because that will help you decide whether you want to continue on this path or get back on the right road. God allows us to make choices, even when wrong choices could lead to our destruction. Will you continue in the sin of adultery or will you turn from this wrong, seek forgiveness, and walk in light and truth? After you make that commitment, you can better decide how to offer forgiveness to your first spouse.

Our daughter is married to a foreigner who practices a non-Christian faith. He wants to move their children to his home country and raise them in his faith. How should we react?

Let your feelings be known to your son-in-law — in a Christian way, of course. If your daughter does not agree with him, she should do the same. However, if your daughter is not contesting his decision, you unfortunately don't have much say in the process. Whether this is good for the children or not, it is a fact that the parents get to decide. As you pray for your daughter and grandchildren, pray for godly classmates, neighbors, and unseen visitors who will minister to them in that foreign land and give them the spiritual fruit they need. As you pray for your son-in-law, pray that God will put people in his path who know and speak the truth in his home country, and who will minister to him.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

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THQ D ISXSSNK EHA, IVSYKVST, WHV YKS UHVF
GSXAX NKVDXY'X XCOS, CTF WHV YKS UHLS HW
YKS XMDVDY, YKCY ES XYVDLS YHBSYKSV QDYK
ZS DT EHAV MCVESVX YH BHF WHV ZS;

VHZCTX WDWYSST: YKDVYE

This week's clue: K equals H.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Zephaniah One: Nine.

Baptist Record

Au

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